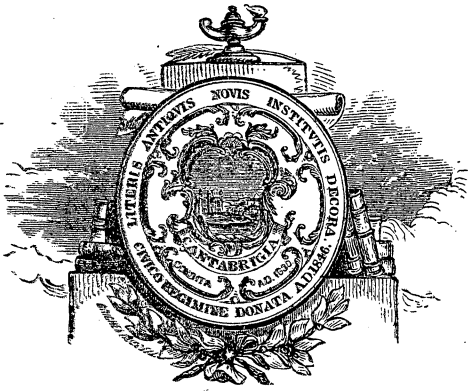




City of Cambridge,

MAYOR'S OFFICE,

June 7th 1870

Gentlemen of the City Council

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the Act recently passed by the Legislature, and approved by the Governor on the first inst., relating to West Boston and Craigie Bridges. You will perceive that, by the terms of Section 10, the Act itself depends for vitality upon its acceptance by the City Council of Cambridge, within thirty days of its passage. I respectfully recommend immediate action and acceptance. If a new draw is to be constructed on West Boston Bridge, this season, there is no time to be lost in taking the necessary preliminary steps. With all the speed that can possibly be used, ^{there will be a} considerable delay, inasmuch as the Harbor Commissioners are to locate the draws; the Supreme Judicial Court is to appoint three Commissioners to ^{appraise and} divide the Bridge Fund and apportion the cost of maintenance of the Bridges upon the cities of Boston and Cambridge; and two other Commissioners are to be chosen, one from each city, which ^{Board of} Commissioners will have charge of the bridges thereafter, and time will be requisite wherein to make suitable contracts for constructing the draws.

By Chapter 311 of the Acts of 1869 the city

of Cambridge was required to make, at its own expense, new draws in these bridges in such position and of such form and construction as the Harbor Commissioners might determine. This was clearly in contravention of the contract entered into in the year 1857 between the Commonwealth and the city of Cambridge. The Committee on Harbors of the present year, after many protracted hearings, recognised the binding force of this contract, ~~and~~ by inserting in the Act now before you a provision for the acceptance thereof by yourselves. They also provide that the bridges shall hereafter be maintained jointly by the cities of Boston and Cambridge in such proportions as three Commissioners may determine, and that the Fund that Cambridge received with the bridges shall be divided in the same proportion. This equitable adjustment will, I make no doubt, meet with your approval. It is ^{vastly} more favorable to our city than the legislation of last year and is as much as we could have reasonably expected to secure.

H. R. Harding
Mayor

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Act concerning Bridges.
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